

THE EPIC JOURNEY STARTS HERE!

SONIC

Archie
COMICS

SEGA®

THE HEDGEHOG

COUNTDOWN
TO **CHAOS!**
PART ONE



ISSUE 253

ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...

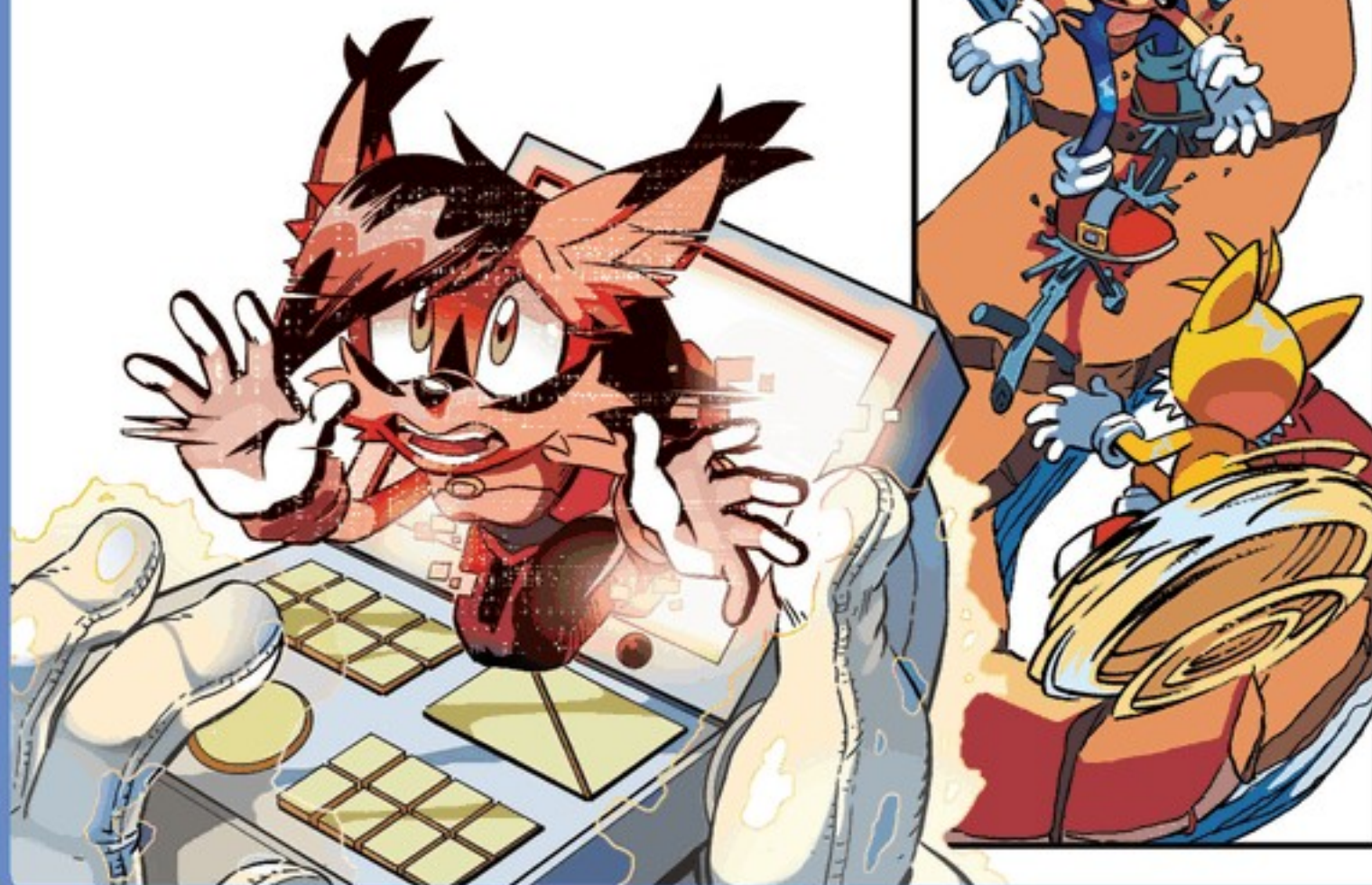
THE WORLD'S COOLEST, BLUEST HERO JUST SAVED THE DAY – AGAIN!

After foiling Dr. Eggman's plans, both Sonic and Eggman woke up back in their home world, but with new memories – and a new past, altered by the reality-warping Genesis Wave!

But the artificial intelligence known as NICOLE may hold the key to what has happened, and by interacting with the heroic freedom fighters she may be able to “de-fragment” this new world from the old one, piece by piece.



Now it's up to Sonic and Tails to put the team back together, restore Nicole, and find out just what happened to their world...



WHO'S WHO



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
FASTEST THING ALIVE



MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S BEST BUD



DR. EGGMAN
SONIC'S MAD SCIENTIST NEMESIS



???

COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS

PART ONE: THE BUILDER

MYSTIC RUINS
JUNGLE...

OUTTA THE
WAY, JUNGLE!
HEDGEHOG
COMIN'
THROUGH!

TAILS
GENIUS
FLYER

YEAH!
YOU SHOW
THOSE LEAVES
WHO'S
BOSS!

SONIC
TRUE BLUE
HERO

Writer: **IAN FLYNN** • Pencil Layouts: **TRACY YARDLEY!**
Pencil Finishes: **LAMAR WELLS** • Inks: **TERRY AUSTIN**
Colors: **MATT HERMS** • Letters: **JOHN WORKMAN**
Cover by **BEN BATES** • Variant Cover by **T. REX**

Assistant Editor: **VINCENT LOVALLO**
Editor/Executive Director of Editorial: **PAUL KAMINSKI**
Editor-in-Chief: **VICTOR GORELICK** • President: **MIKE PELLERITO**
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SAYS THE FOX
WITH THE WEED-
WHACKER TAILS...

... ANY LUCK
FINDING
ROTOR?

FREE!
FREE!

I'VE GOT A REALLY WEAK
SIGNAL NARROWED DOWN
TO A FEW HUNDRED
METERS, BUT THAT'S IT. IF
THE KING HADN'T GIVEN US
THOSE COORDINATES,
THERE'D HAVE BEEN NO
WAY TO KNOW WHERE TO
LOOK.*

*SEE LAST ISSUE!

AND ROTOR'S THE
ONE FREEDOM
FIGHTER WE'VE GOT
ANY LEAD ON. HOPE-
FULLY, HE'S GOT A
CLUE WHERE EVERY-
ONE ELSE IS.

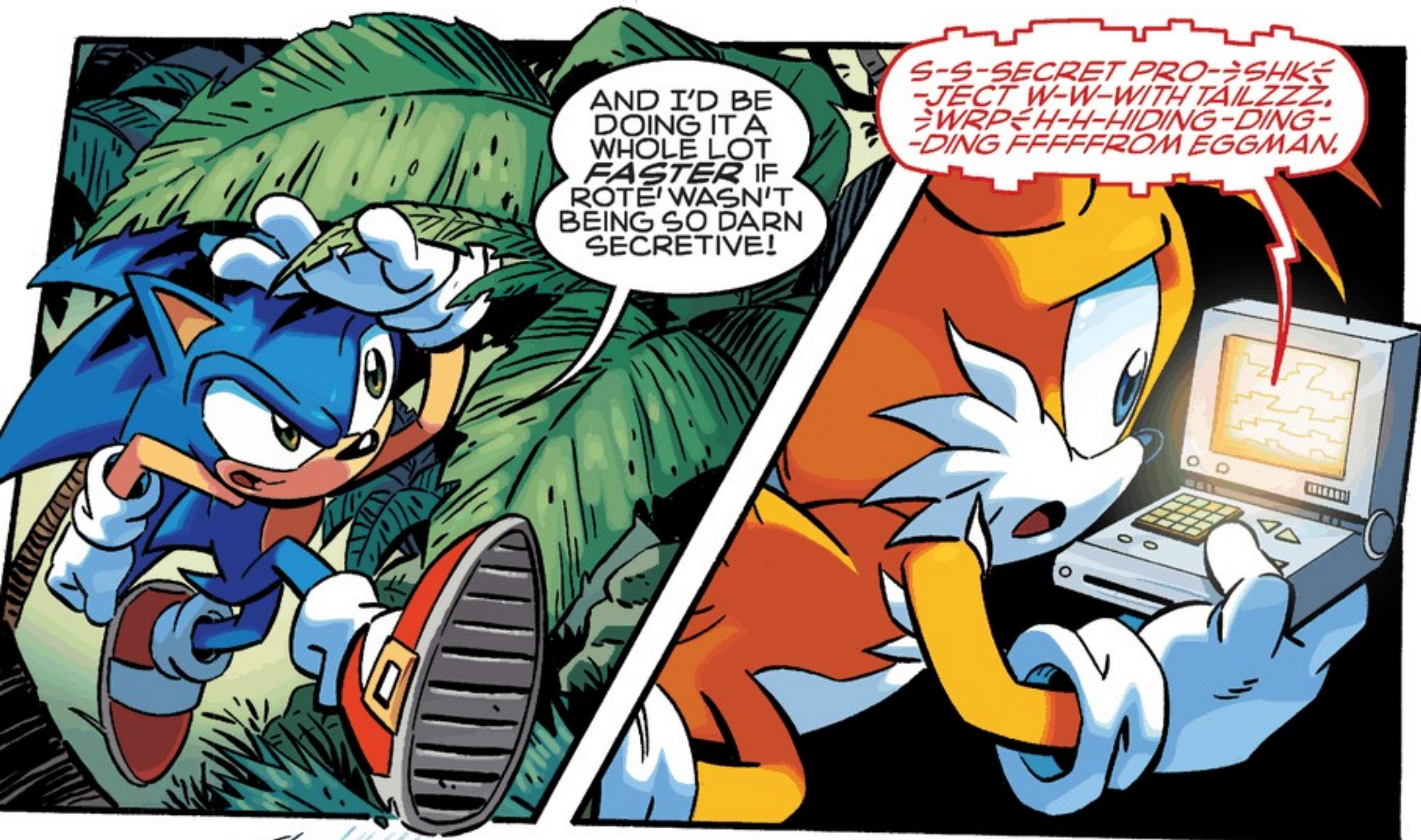
AND ONCE WE FIND
THEM, THEY'LL PROVE
OR DISPROVE MY
THEORY ABOUT THEM
BEING KEY TO RESTOR-
ING NICOLE.

SPEAKIN'
OF--HOW YOU
DOIN', GIRL?

S-S-STILL *KRRK*
BUG-G-G-GY.

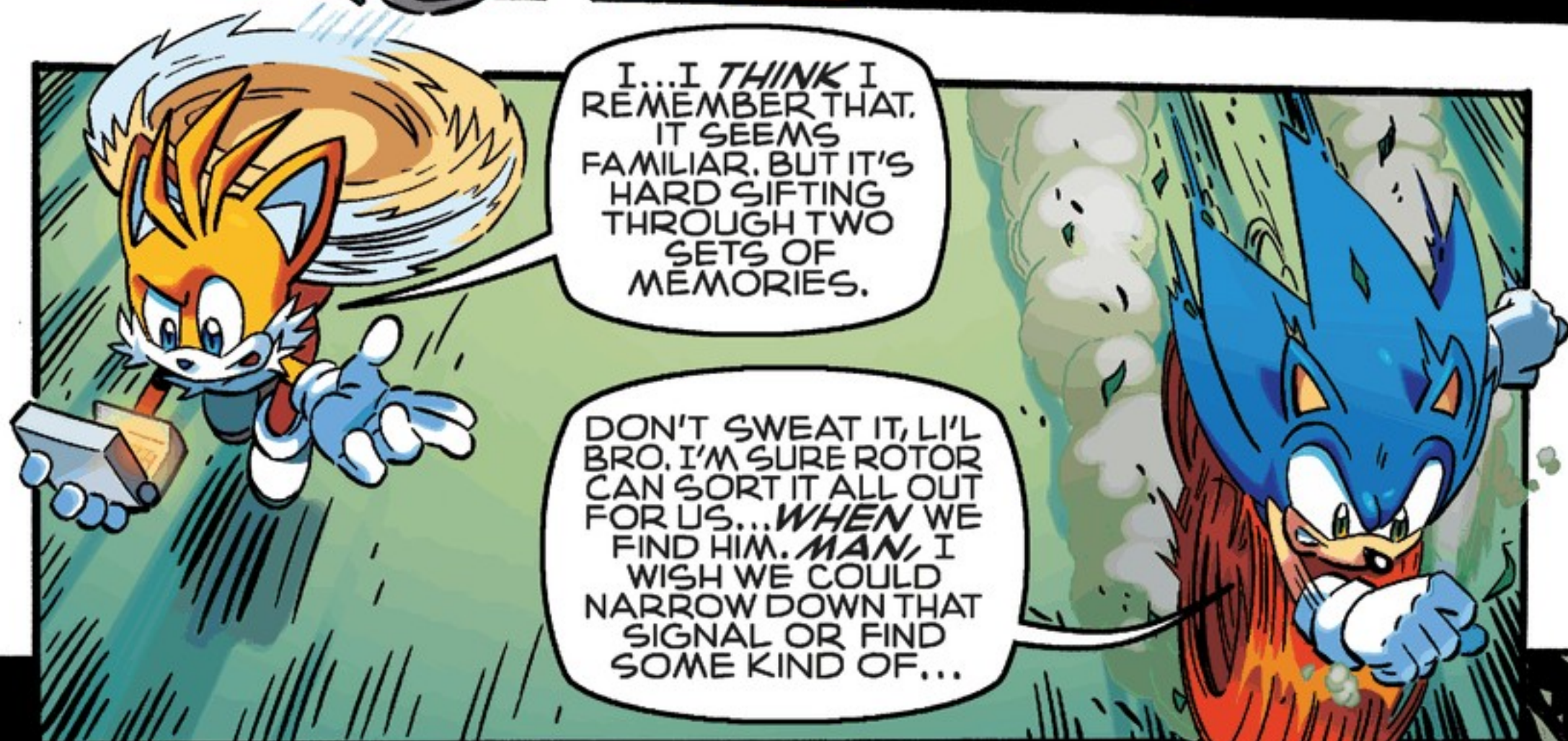
HANG IN
THERE. WE'LL
MAKE THIS
RIGHT.

NICOLE
SUPER ADVANCED A.I.
(NOT DOING SO HOT
RIGHT NOW)



AND I'D BE
DOING IT A
WHOLE LOT
FASTER IF
ROTE' WASN'T
BEING SO DARN
SECRETIVE!

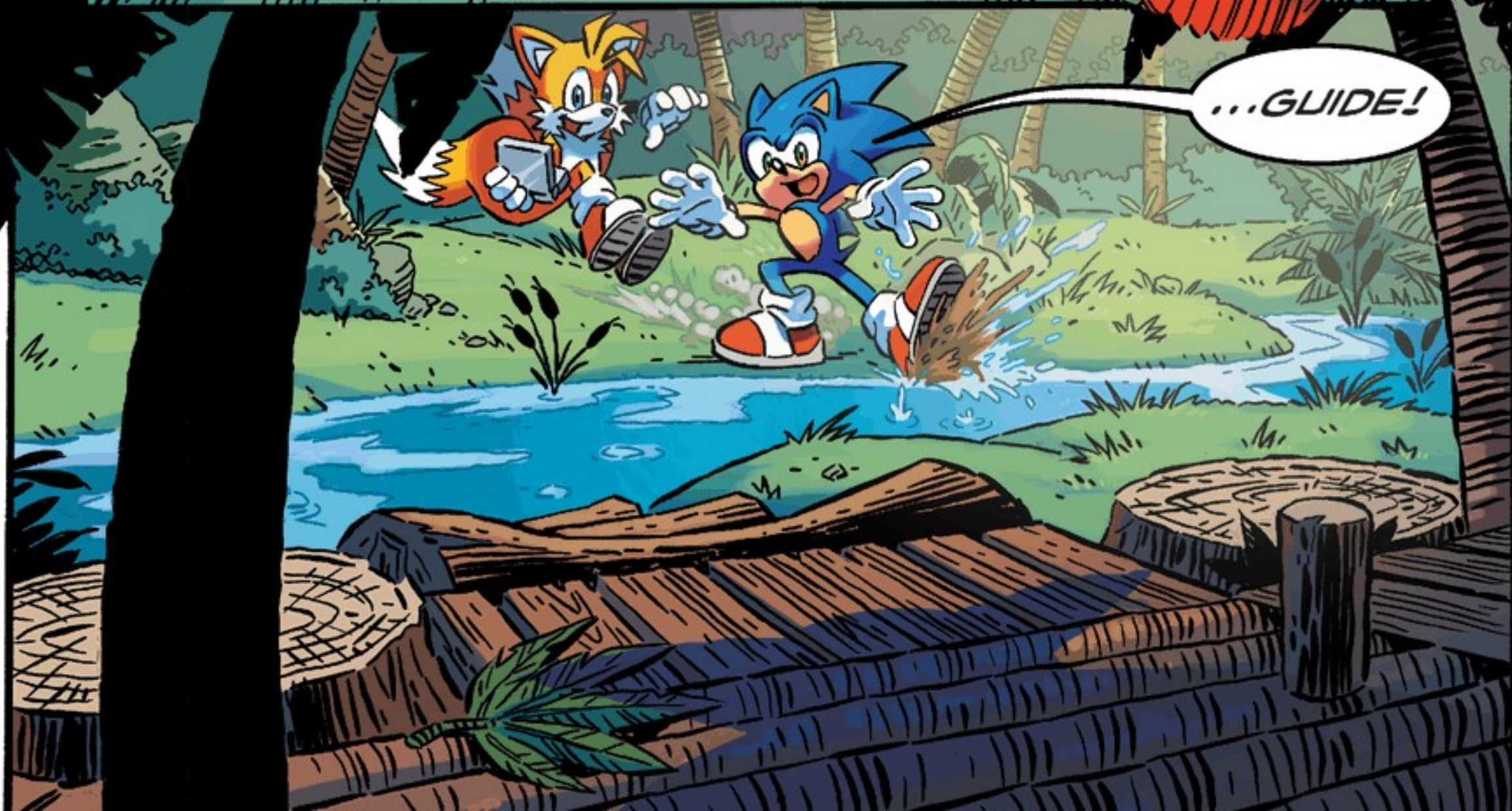
S-S-SECRET PRO-→SHK←
-JECT W-W-WITH TAILZZZ.
→WRP←H-H-HIDING-DING-
-DING FFFFFFROM EGGMAN.



I...I *THINK* I
REMEMBER THAT.
IT SEEMS
FAMILIAR, BUT IT'S
HARD SIFTING
THROUGH TWO
SETS OF
MEMORIES.

DON'T SWEAT IT, LI'L
BRO, I'M SURE ROTOR
CAN SORT IT ALL OUT
FOR US... *WHEN* WE
FIND HIM. *MAN*, I
WISH WE COULD
NARROW DOWN THAT
SIGNAL OR FIND
SOME KIND OF...

...GUIDE!



EFRIKA PLAINS...

O!! I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT, PUSHIN' THIS THING, DON'TCHA KNOW?

INDEED, MY SERVOS ARE CREAKING.

WELL, I'M TIRED, HUNGRY, THIRSTY, AND HAD TO CAMP OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, SO THE TWO OF YOU CAN GET OVER IT!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, DON'T HAFTA BE SO MEAN ABOUT IT...

IF ONLY WE HAD A GENIUS MECHANIC WITH US, HE COULD DO SUCH THINGS AS FIX THE EGG MOBILE SO WE COULD GO HOME AND...

CUBOT HAS A BUGGY VOICE CHIP. HE TRIES...

ORBOT SASSY SUBORDINATE

DOCTOR EGGMAN MAD GENIUS

FIX IT WITH WHAT, YOU PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE BOCCIE BALL?!

RRRUMBLE...

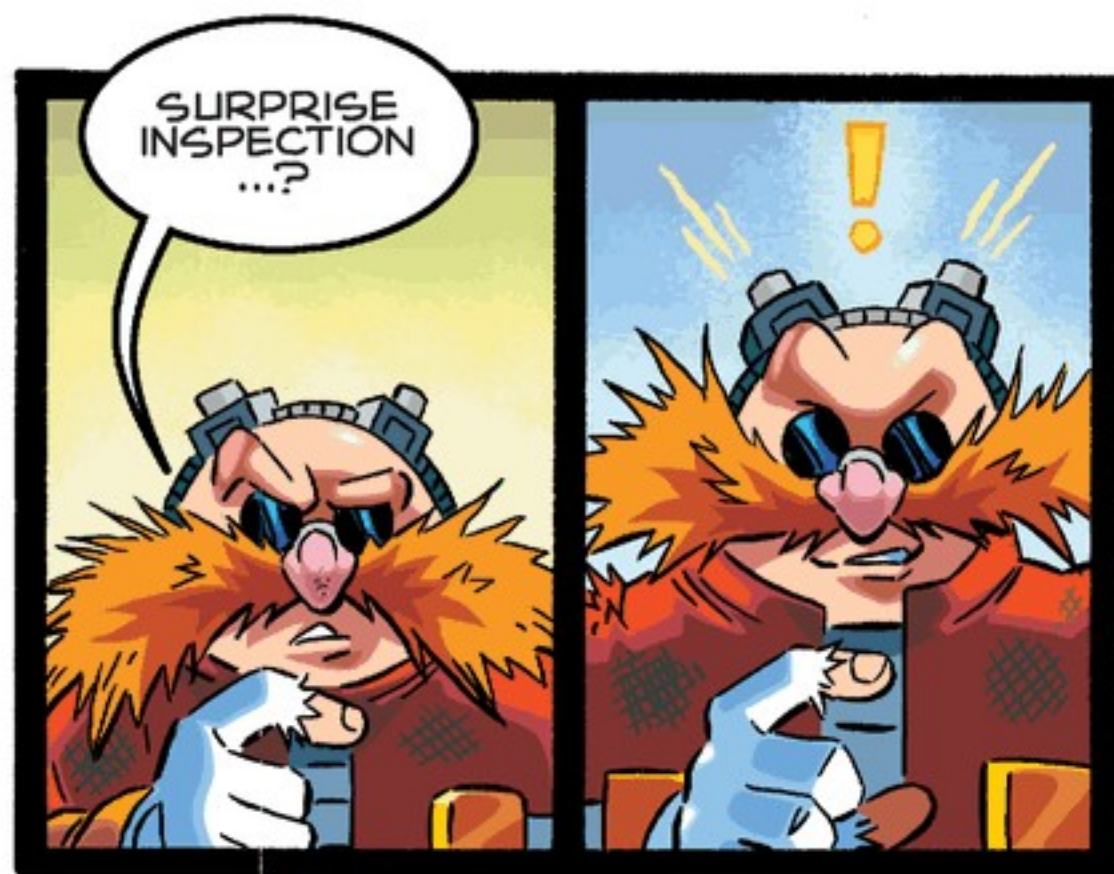
RRRUMBLE!!!

I HAVE NO TOOLS! NO FUEL CELLS! NO MACHINE SHOP TO WORK IN! NO IDEA WHERE WE ARE! IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE HIDING ALL THAT IN THAT BIG MOUTH OF YOURS--PLEASE!--DO SHARE!

RRRUMBLE...

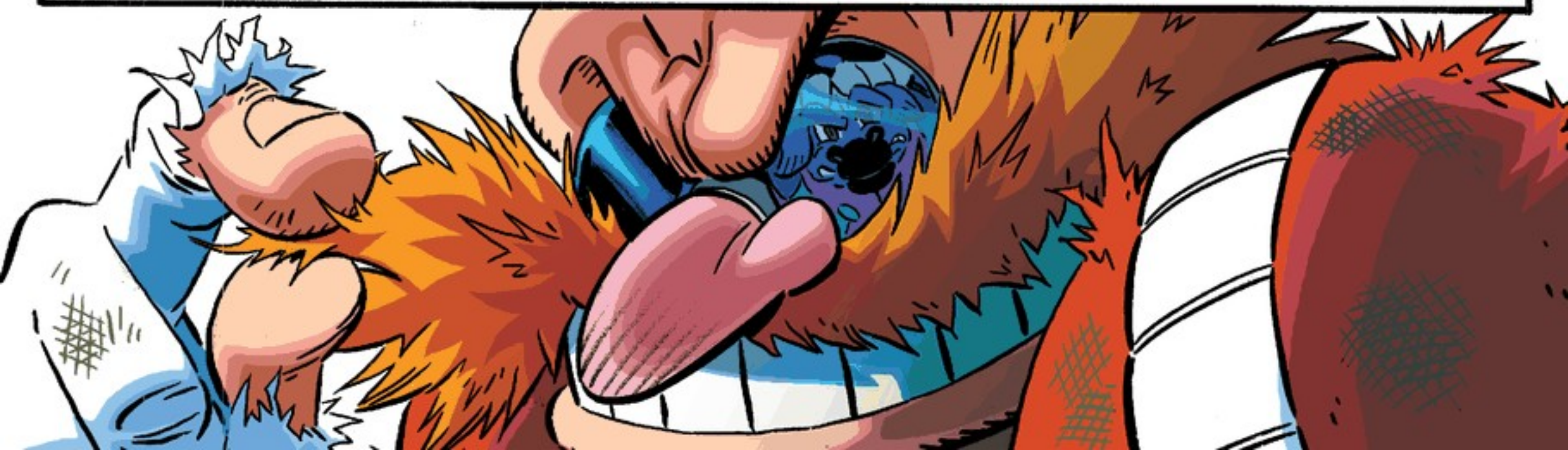
AND WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT RACKET?!





OF *COURSE* THIS IS AN INSPECTION! YOU DIDN'T LET ME SNEAK UP ON YOU, WHICH IS GOOD, BUT YOUR RESPONSE TIME IS LACKING. NAME, RANK--YOU KNOW THE DRILL!

SNORT AXEL THE WATER BUFFALO, EGG BOSS TO THE EFRIKA EGG ARMY UNIT. *SIR*.





WHOA-HO-HO!
I'VE GOT
TO GET ME
ONE OF
THESE!

PARDON
ME, BOSS, BUT I
DON'T RECALL YOUR
FORCES BEING CALLED
THE "EGG ARMY," AND
THAT AXEL FELLOW
CERTAINLY WASN'T
ONE OF YOUR SUB-
ORDINATES.

I KNOW. I HAD
MY SUSPICIONS
WHEN WE LANDED
IN THE MIDDLE OF
NOWHERE, BUT
NOW...

I MAY HAVE BEEN...
HASTY IN DISRUPTING
SONIC'S CHAOS
CONTROL.* I'LL NEED
TO PERFORM FURTHER
RESEARCH, BUT IT
APPEARS THE WORLD'S
REALITY *WAS* ALTERED
TO SOME DEGREE.

*WORLD'S COLLIDE
PART 12--STH #251!

YEAH, BUT
...TO WHAT
DEGREE?

WHO CARES? I'VE
GOT AN **EGG ARMY**
WITH **EGG BOSSES**!
MY CONCERNS ARE
DINNER, FIXING THE EGG
MOBILE, AND GETTING
BACK TO THE DEATH EGG
--IN THAT ORDER.

"AND THEN IT'S RIGHT BACK TO MAKING SONIC MISERABLE!"

BIG!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOIN'
HERE,
BUDDY?

FISHIN'.

BIG
THE CAT
LAID-BACK
TITAN

FROGGY
BIG'S BEST
BUDDY

I CAN SEE THAT, BUT
WHAT HAPPENED TO
TEAM FREEDOM?
WEREN'T YOU STILL
IN THE CITY WHEN
WE LEFT?

NOPE,

BUT... WELL,
THEN, WHAT
HAVE YOU
BEEN DOING
ALL THIS
TIME?

FISHIN'.

LET
ME
TRY.

HEY, DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT THAT PROJECT
ROTOR AND I WERE
WORKING ON?

YEAH,
IT'S BIG.
LIKE
ME!

HAHA--
I BET!
WE GOT
LOST. CAN
YOU SHOW
US THE
WAY?

SURE.

GOLF
CLAP!

THIS
WAY!

SOON...

DUDE, I NEVER GET TIRED OF THIS VIEW. EVEN IF THE FINAL EGG'S TOWER IS STICKIN' OUT AND BEING AN EYE-SORE.

THE WHAT?

Y'KNOW, THE FINAL EGG? BASE FOR THE EGG CARRIER? WHEN THE DOC WAS USING CHAOS AND HE... AND HE...

...HUH... I GUESS THAT HAPPENED ON *THIS* WORLD. MY MEMORIES ARE STARTING TO RUN TOGETHER.

WHAT IF... WHAT IF OUR NEW HISTORIES OVERTAKE THE OLD ONES?

SOMEBODY'S FIGHTING.



BOOM!

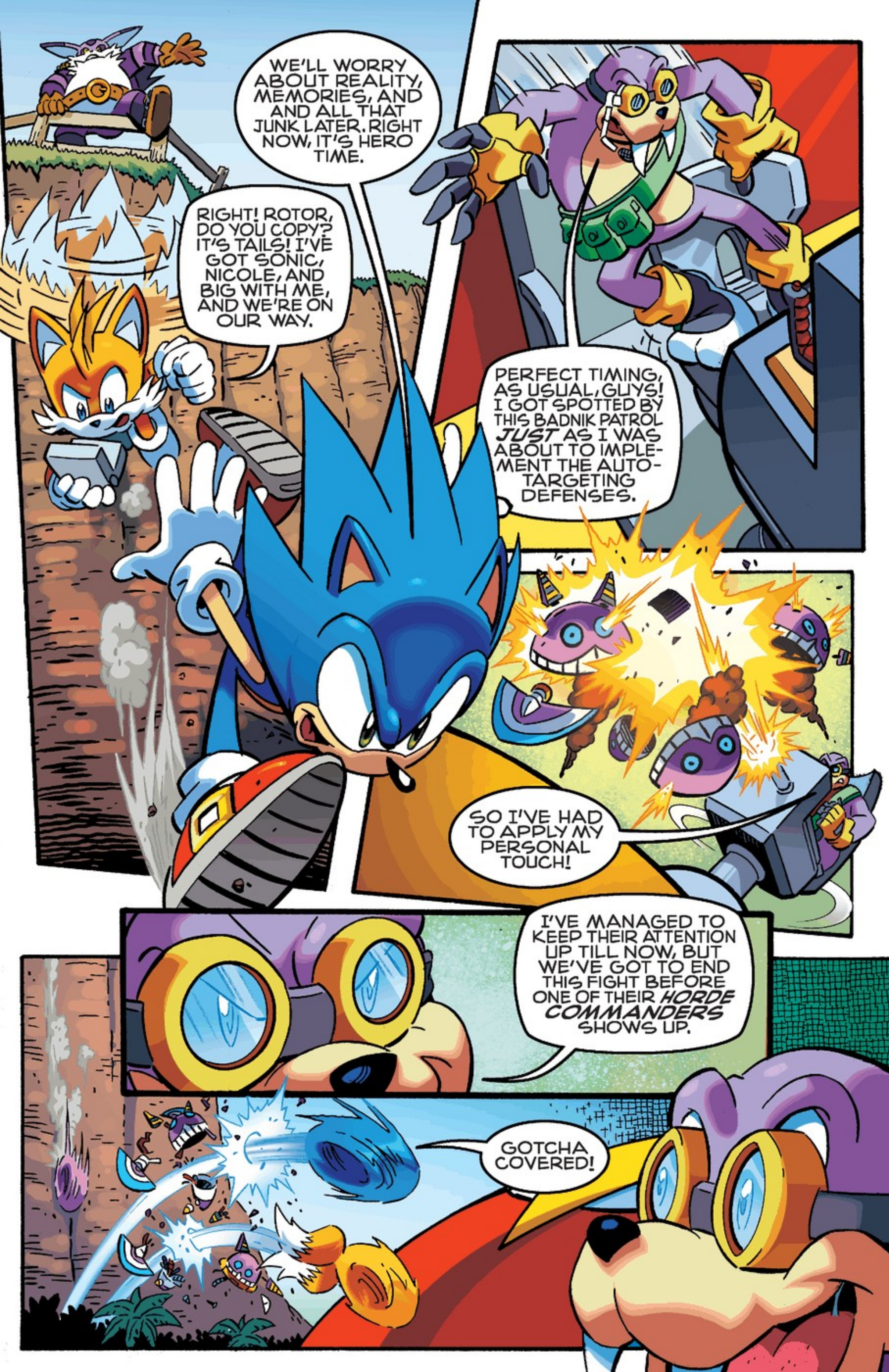
KZZT!

CRASH!

KLANG!

IS THAT
ALL YOU'VE
GOT?!

ROTOR THE WALRUS
FREEDOM FIGHTER
BATTLE-MECHANIC



WE'LL WORRY ABOUT REALITY, MEMORIES, AND ALL THAT JUNK LATER. RIGHT NOW, IT'S HERO TIME.

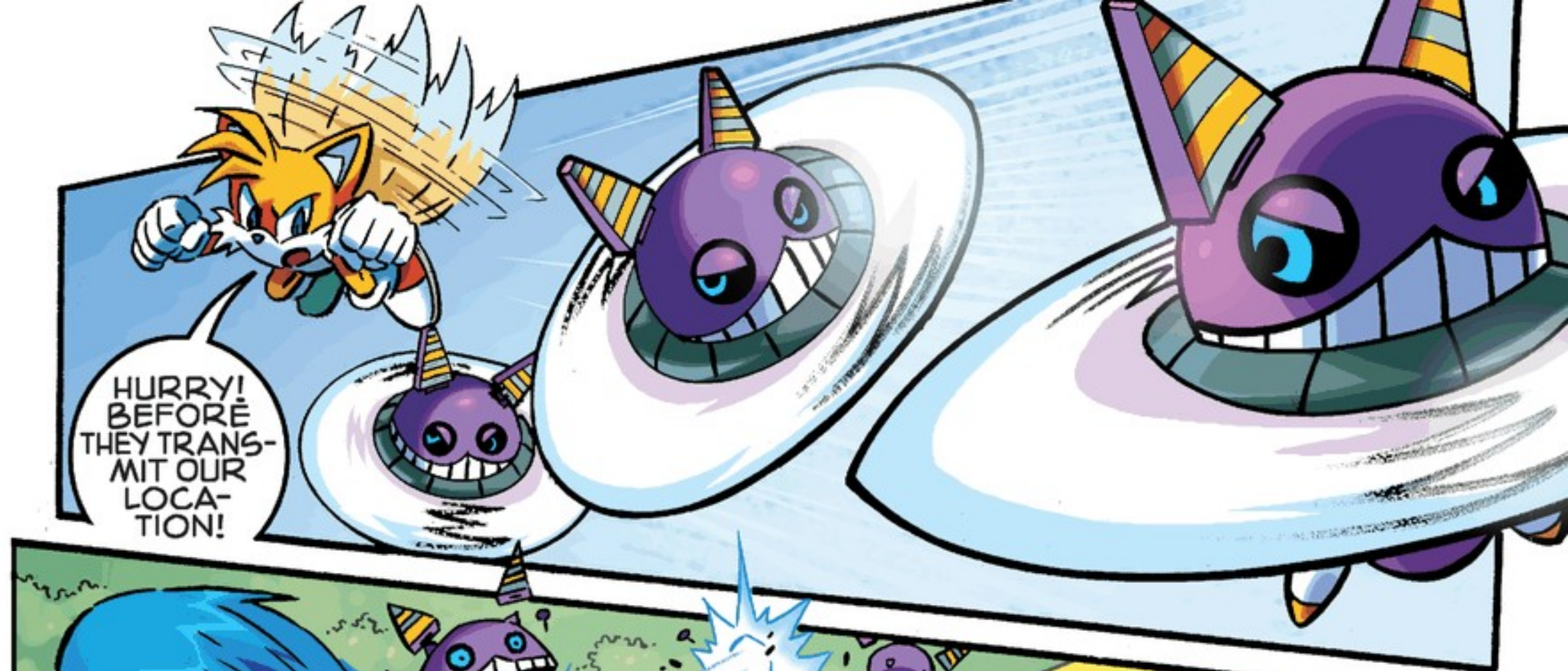
RIGHT! ROTOR, DO YOU COPY? IT'S TAILS! I'VE GOT SONIC, NICOLE, AND BIG WITH ME, AND WE'RE ON OUR WAY.

PERFECT TIMING, AS USUAL, GUYS! I GOT SPOTTED BY THIS BADNIK PATROL *JUST* AS I WAS ABOUT TO IMPLEMENT THE AUTO-TARGETING DEFENSES.

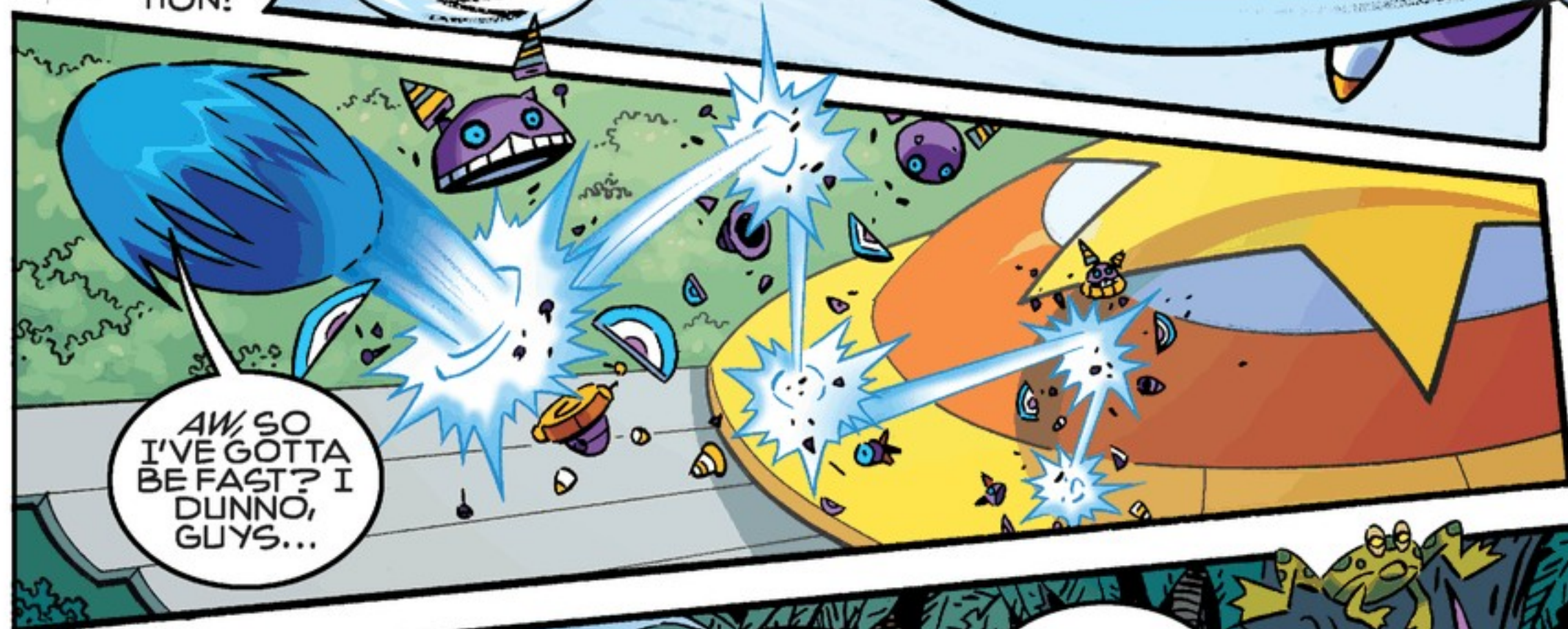
SO I'VE HAD TO APPLY MY PERSONAL TOUCH!

I'VE MANAGED TO KEEP THEIR ATTENTION UP TILL NOW, BUT WE'VE GOT TO END THIS FIGHT BEFORE ONE OF THEIR *HORDE COMMANDERS* SHOWS UP.

GOTCHA COVERED!



HURRY!
BEFORE
THEY TRANS-
MIT OUR
LOCA-
TION!



AW, SO
I'VE GOTTA
BE FAST? I
DUNNO,
GUYS...



WHOA

WHOA

WHOA

WHOA

WHOA

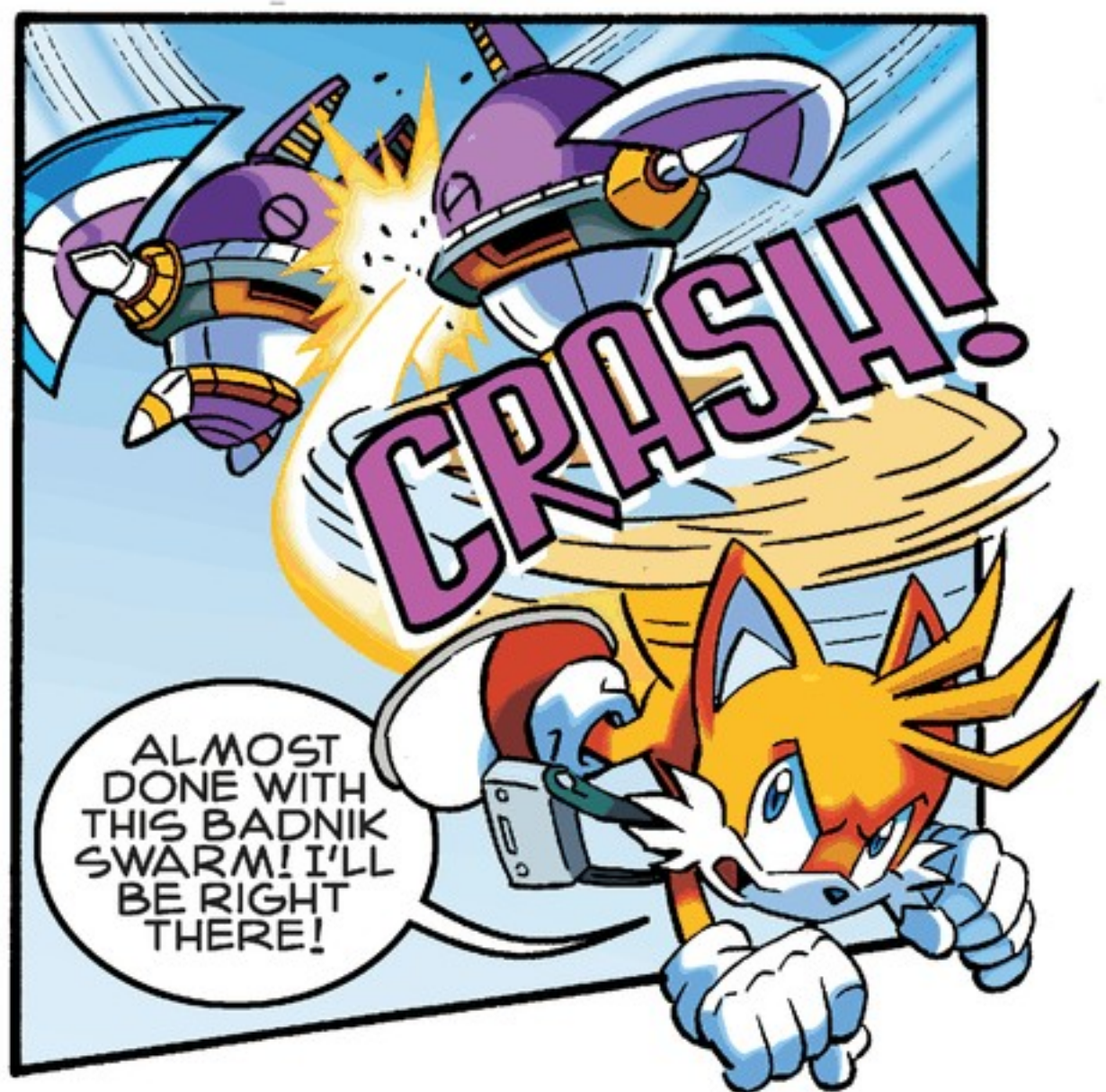
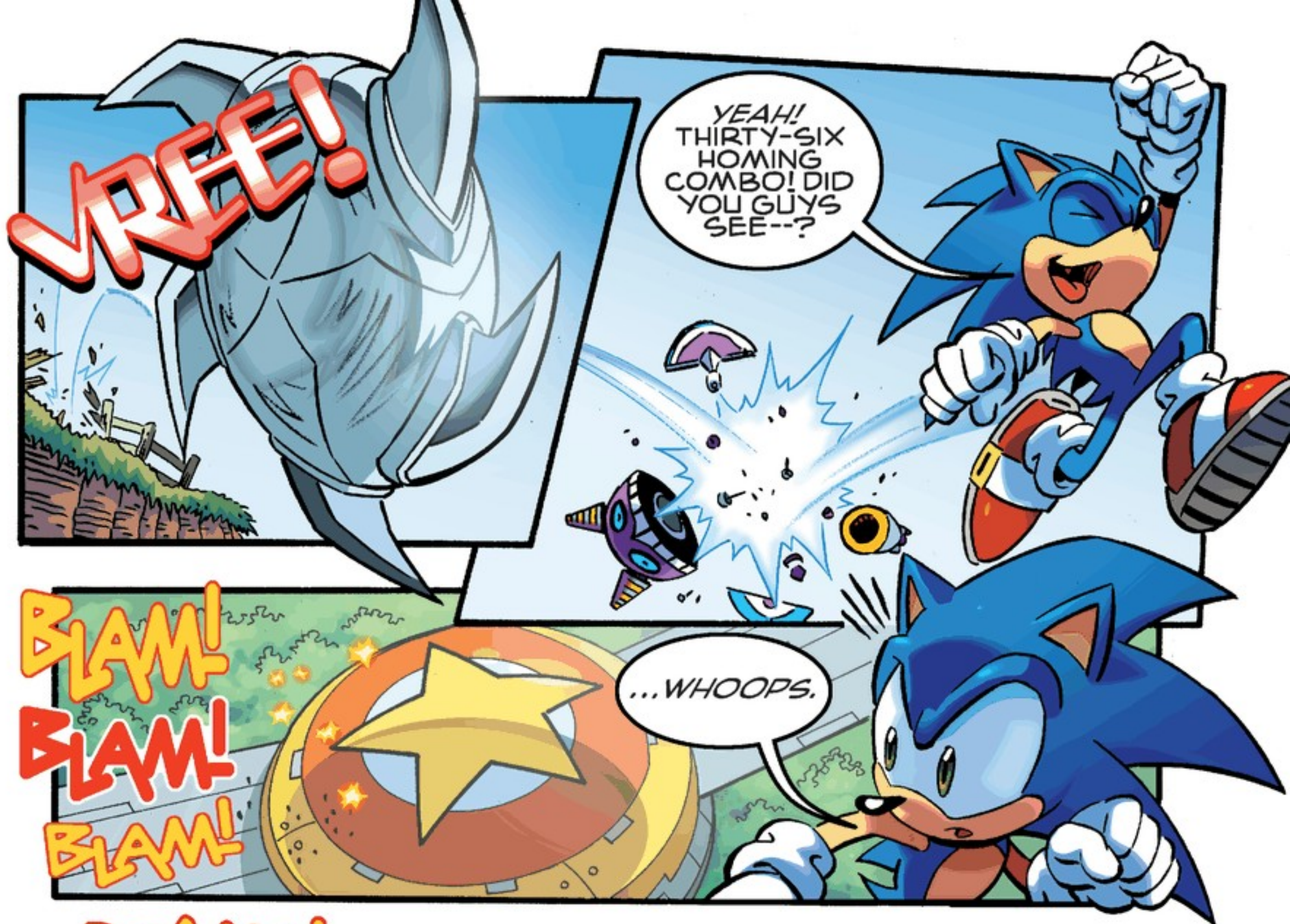


ALMOST
DONE, BOYS!
I THINK WE
DID IT! THERE'S
NO SIGN OF...



...OH,
ME AND
MY BIG
MOUTH...

SILVER SONIC
EGGMAN'S BADNIK
HORDE COMMANDER







WELCOME TO THE BRIDGE OF THE
SKY PATROL!

I'M YOUR CAPTAIN, AND I'LL
WELCOME YOU TO THE MAIDEN
FLIGHT...ONCE BUNNIE'S AND
SALLY'S MISSIONS ARE DONE.

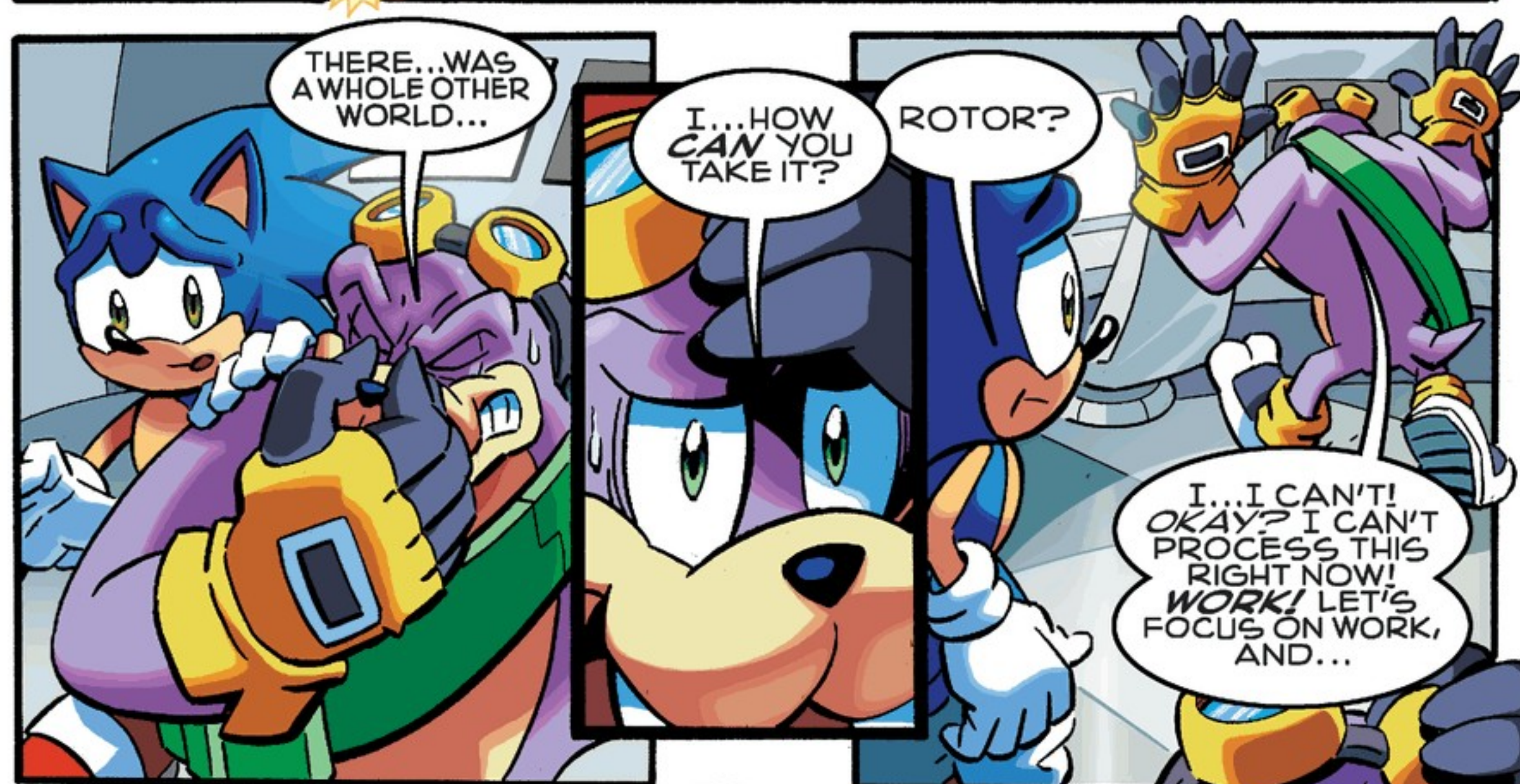
T-PUP!
YOU'RE
HERE,
TOO!

SO--WOW!
"SKY PATROL?"

WHAT? YOU DON'T
LIKE THE NAME NOW?
MAN, YOU *INSISTED*
ON IT. ANYWAY, GUYS,
TAILS AND I DESIGNED
THIS BEAUTY TO
FINALLY HAVE AN
ANSWER TO THE DEATH
EGG AND FLYING
FLEETS THE DOCTOR
KEEPS THROWING AT US.

LOOK, ROTE,
IT'S...IT'LL BE
EASIER IF YOU
TAKE NICOLE.
MORE DIRECT,
AT LEAST.

WHAT'S GOTTEN
INTO YOU GUYS?
I MEAN, SURE,
I'D LOVE TO
HAVE NICOLE'S
HELP IN DEBUG-
GING THE
SYSTEMS AND...



MUCH BETTER,
THANKS VVT. HMM...
NOT PERFECT... VVT.

THAT PROVES IT TO
ME. WE NEED TO FIND
THE OTHER FREEDOM
FIGHTERS TO GET
NICOLE BACK TO ONE
HUNDRED PERCENT.

WE WERE HOPING
YOU'D HELP US WITH
THAT SINCE...Y'KNOW...

RIGHT. U/M...HOLD ON...
LET ME...LET ME PULL
UP OUR MISSION
FILES...

OKAY, SO...BUNNIE AND
SALLY ARE IN DEEP COVER
ON MISSIONS FOR THE
SKY PATROL. ANTOINE'S
HELPING UNCLE CHUCK
JUST OUTSIDE KNOT-
HOLE. AMY WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE HERE,
HELPING GUARD THE
PLACE, BUT SHE JUST...
VANISHED.

I THOUGHT
MAYBE SHE
WENT CHASING
AFTER YOU
AGAIN, BUT...?

NOPE, SO NOW WE'VE
GOTTA FIND *HER* ON
TOP OF THINGS. THANK-
FULLY, I KNOW SHE CAN
HANDLE HERSELF UNTIL
WE GET TO HER.

BUT--MAN--CHUCK IS
OKAY. BUNNIE'S STILL
WITH US, AND ANTOINE'S
ON HIS FEET! AND...
SALLY'S...SALLY'S ON
A MISSION. SHE'S NOT
A ROBOT. SHE'S *OKAY*.

Y-YEAH? LOOK,
I'LL...I'LL STAY
HERE AND WRAP
UP THE SKY
PATROL AND...
SORT THINGS
OUT IN MY HEAD.

I'LL STAY, TOO.
THERE MIGHT
BE MORE
ROBOTS.

GOOD IDEA,
BIG. WE APPRE-
CIATE IT.



"YOU NEVER KNOW
WHAT EGGMAN
WILL TRY NEXT."

EFRIKAN EGG
ARMY BASE.

THAT
SHOULD
DO IT!

YOU'RE
GOING TO
FLY, IN
THAT.

IT
SHOULD
GET ME AS
FAR AS
...UM...

POP QUIZ!
WHAT'S THE
NEAREST
BASE AND
EGG BOSS?

UH...THAT'D
BE LORD HOOD
IN AVALON,
RIGHT?

HAHA!
IT BETTER
BE!

WE'RE FULLY
FUELED, AND THE
ONBOARD COM-
PUTER IS
SYNCHED WITH
THE EGGNET,
BOSS. WE'RE
READY FOR
LAUNCH.

THEN LET'S GET
THIS SHOW ON
THE ROAD.

TILL WE
MEET AGAIN,
MY LOYAL EGG
SOLDIERS!

WHY
DO WE
TOLERATE
HIM AGAIN,
SIR?

BECAUSE
WE *HAVE*
TO. BESIDES,
IF THE
RUMORS
ARE TRUE,
THERE'S NO
WAY I'M
GETTING
ON HIS BAD
SIDE.

"IF HE'S **REALLY** GOTTEN THE ROBOTICIZER TO WORK AGAIN, I DON'T WANT TO BE THE FIRST GUY IN IT."

NOT THAT I WOULD QUESTION YOUR GENIUS, BOSS, BUT WHY NOT STAY THE NIGHT? REST, RECUPERATE... NOT RISK FALLING ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL AND PLUNGING US TO CERTAIN DOOM?

BECAUSE THERE'S NO TIME. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE DEATH EGG AND LAUNCH IT SO I CAN FIND A WAY TO FIX THINGS.

WHAT "THINGS" ...?

I HAD A MOMENT TO GET SOME GLOBAL READINGS OFF THE EGNET, AND ...WELL...

...REMEMBER WHEN I SAID I MIGHT HAVE BEEN HASTY IN STOPPING SONIC FROM FIXING REALITY?

WHAT TERRIBLE FATE HAS DR. EGGMAN FORESEEN FOR THE WORLD? CAN **SONIC** FIND HIS FRIENDS IN TIME TO **STOP** IT? COME BACK NEXT TIME AS THE TENSION BREAKS IN OUR **"COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS"** PART TWO! PLUS... FIND OUT **AMY'S FATE** STARTING IN **SONIC UNIVERSE #55--"PIRATE PLUNDER PANIC"**-- ON SALE NOW!



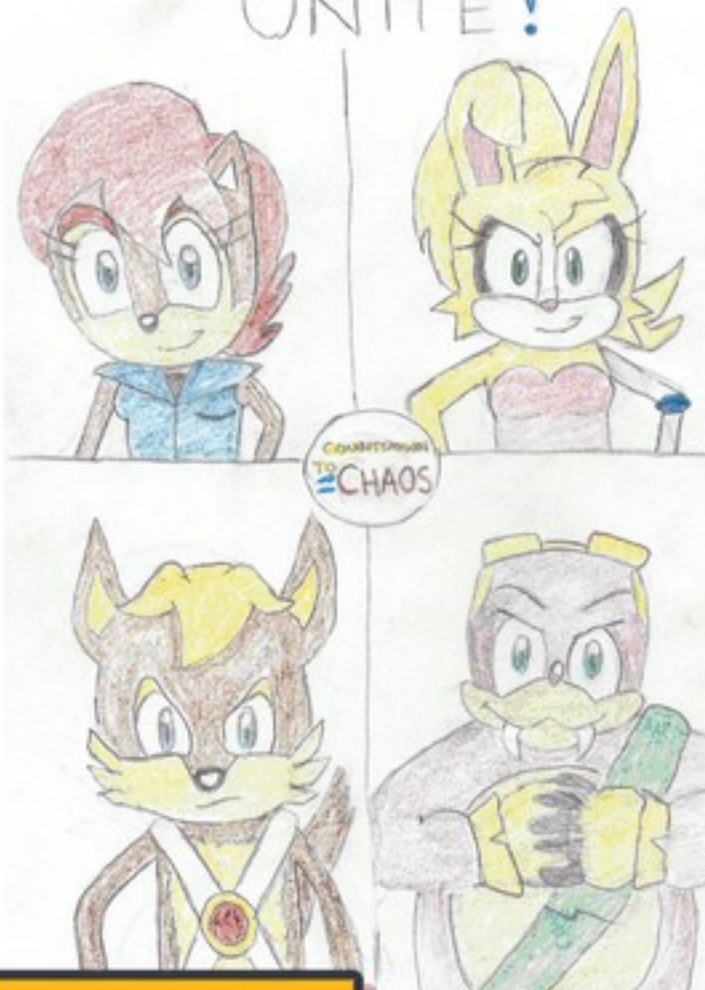
SONIC-GRAMS

FAN ART



Madeline B. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

FREEDOM FIGHTERS
UNITE!



Jason R.
from Arizona



Eric D. sent to
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HEY, KIDS!

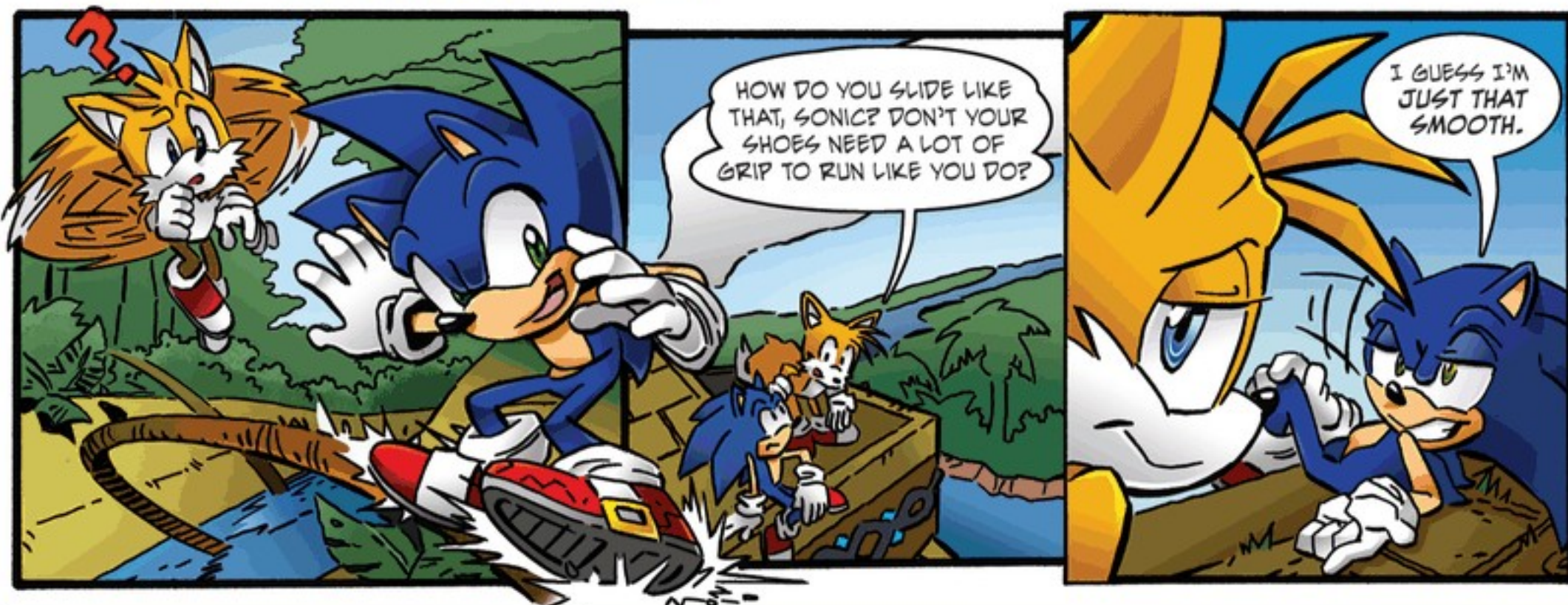
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OFF PANEL

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INKS: TERRY AUSTIN COLORS: ALEAH BAKER



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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi there! I'd like to say that you guys are awesome and I have some questions for you!

Helllooo! Come at me questions!

1. I loved Worlds Collide, do you think the Blue Blur and the Blue Bomber will ever meet again?

Nothing is impossible, only time will tell!

2. Will Espio be returning soon?

Espio and the rest of the Chaotix crew will be back before you know it! Keep reading Sonic the Hedgehog and Sonic Universe to find out!

3. Pass this to Espio and tell him that he is the best ninja I know and that he is awesome!

**Damon H. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com**

Thanks for writing in, Damon!

I'll make sure Espio gets your message, as soon as I find him, that chameleon camouflage always seems to get the best of me!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I've been a Sonic the Hedgehog fan ever since 2005, and have collected over 100 issues, including signatures from Ben Bates and Ian Flynn. These past 8 years have been awesome, reading all the collected Sonic Universe arcs you've made, and even the Worlds Collide saga made my year. When I saw the artwork for issue 251, I was freaking out. It looked amazing!!! Unfortunately, going into high school, my parents think it's best for me to stop subscribing. But that doesn't mean I can't go on the app!! I just wanted to say thanks for all the good times, the memories, and all the true blue action Sonic brings me.

**Thomas F. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com**

Thanks for writing in, Thomas! We're glad you've been enjoying the comics, and hope you continue reading however you can, because we have a lot more stories to tell!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Since Dr. Eggman messed things up does that mean Antoine will get out of his coma? Keep juicin!

**sonicfan#1 sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com**

Thanks for the letter! The Countdown to Chaos storyline should be able to answer all your questions regarding the Freedom Fighters. Keep reading to find out!

See ya'll next month for part two of COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #253



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